



Brentwood High School

District: Brentwood School District

Building Enrollment: 257

Grade Range: 9-12



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A Snapshot of Brentwood High School...

Brentwood High School has served the city of Brentwood, Missouri, since it graduated its first three students in 1929. Located in the geographic center of a 2.9-square-mile city in St. Louis County, Brentwood High School is also the center of a vibrant community, rich in traditions of excellence and neighborliness, and committed to remaining a "small town in the big city." Economically and socially diverse, Brentwood High School has welcomed more than 20 percent of its 250 students from St. Louis City through the voluntary desegregation transfer program since 1986, creating a population that is comprised of more than 37 percent minority students of various groups.

Holding on to small-town traditions, Friday night football games in Brentwood are social events where families gather to eat bratwursts, work the concession stand, catch up on the week's events, and occasionally, watch some football. On the field on Friday nights, just as in classrooms on Friday mornings, the same values hold true: everyone is welcomed, everyone is challenged to excel, and hard work pays off.

Brentwood High School's Mission: "...to create a relationship-based learning environment where students feel physically and emotionally safe, where every student can learn at his or her optimal level, and where each person's character can develop significantly, personally as well as intellectually."

Brentwood's Learning Environment – Helping Students Achieve Success

Brentwood High School's faculty and staff strive to help every student develop the skills, attitudes and values to become a self-sufficient, community-minded citizen, capable and willing to both lead and serve in a diverse community. Students are welcomed to the school during the annual 8th Grade Transition Night. Once a part of Brentwood High School, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of rigorous courses designed to prepare them for their highest post-secondary plans. Though small, Brentwood High School is

"The first priority of public schools is to foster the development of good citizens... academically and culturally literate, able to reason and think critically, able to understand and manipulate data, competent to work with technology, disposed to participate fully in the democratic processes and in the obligations of citizens, and fully equipped to engage in life-long learning so as to be economically independent in an ever-changing global economy."

creatively staffed to offer over 100 different courses, including three foreign languages, 13 college-credit courses, band, choir, theater and a variety of practical arts electives.

Working on an 8-block schedule in which classes meet on alternate days, students still receive daily contact with an Advisory teacher who supports them through their four-year journey toward graduation. The Advisory program maintains a personal connection for students as they grow toward independence. The Advisory also serves as a conduit of information to and from parents. Although 85 to 90 percent of Brentwood students continue on to college, all students receive individual guidance for their post-secondary aspirations, including work, military service or technical school. Regardless of their goals, Brentwood students learn that all work is honorable and that success comes from appreciating a “job well done.”

Brentwood’s Extracurricular Programs – Providing Opportunities for Student Involvement

Extracurricular programs are a key component of the Brentwood High School program, as students report that they are a strong motivator to attend school and to do well. A no-cut policy guarantees every interested student the opportunity to learn the joys and disciplines of being on a team, but old-fashioned talent and hard work are needed to earn playing time. Brentwood High School offers 11 different MSHSAA-sanctioned sports, and more than 60 percent of students participate in one or more sports. In years when demand is high, new teams are created to provide greater opportunity, whether it is a separate 9th grade basketball team or a cross-country squad of four.

The Student Council (STUCO) is open to anyone who wants to volunteer – and the spirit of volunteerism is strong. STUCO annually raises thousands of dollars at Thanksgiving and Christmas for needy families. For fun, STUCO organizes school dances in the gym – Homecoming, the Winter Dance, and Spring Fling – which are attended by most students with great enthusiasm. Other extracurricular clubs include National Honor Society, Future Educators of America, Art Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Harry Potter Club, and the Diversity Club. Students are encouraged to initiate their own interest groups each year.

The Brentwood Community – Creating Kids Who Care

While Brentwood offers many programs to serve every student, few are as effective as individual attention and relationships. Brentwood is a community connected to its school. Parents and students feel welcomed and safe; alumni are proud of their alma mater. Within the school, several structures support close connections – small class sizes, the Advisory program, the small size of faculty, a common lunch period, and the requirement that every teacher serve on three committee levels. Collective inquiry occurs not only over data, but also at the individual student level; teachers cannot simply “look the other way” when a student is not meeting expectations. Disciplinary measures, when needed, are meted out personally with the goal of creating genuine change in the student.

Because the relationships among students, staff, parents, and the community are strong, students excel – they do a good job because they care and because they believe that the adults in their lives care for them.

“At Brentwood High School, we take care of our children now – as if they were our own – with the understanding that they will be entrusted with our care and with that of future generations once they leave our halls.”

While Brentwood is a “feel-good” place, the proof is really in student performance. Held up to the rigorous standards of the Show-Me State’s tests, Brentwood’s students demonstrate not only that they are academically proficient, but also that they are willing to show their best efforts on the state’s tests, a commitment students are not likely to make if they do not care about their school. Brentwood is a high-

performing school that has continued to show improvement over time in every sub-group and has annually been designated as a “Top Ten” school based on Missouri Assessment Program performance.

Gold Star Practices – What’s Working at Brentwood High School

- ★ ***Brentwood High School pays for every interested junior to take a practice ACT test and provides a four-week test preparation course for each interested student.***
- ★ ***For the past 14 years, the school has employed a Home/School Liaison who works with all students and provides special outreach and assistance to families that participate in the Voluntary Transfer Program.***
- ★ ***All 9th grade students who start school below grade-level in reading are assigned to an Academic Literacy course taught by a secondary reading specialist, in addition to their regular 9th grade English course.***

Brentwood High School continues a quest for excellence, striving to meet the needs of every child. It is hard to get lost in Brentwood, so, indeed, no child is left behind.